

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 /064 W

----- 073026

R 181029Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2428

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: M-16 FACTORY AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 88994

1. REFTEL REQUEST DISCUSSED APRIL 18 WITH DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY SALIENTES. RESPONDING TO HIS DIRECT QUESTION SALIENTES WAS INFORMED PER REFTEL THAT REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE BY NAPOLEAN LECHOCO AND THAT PRESUMED REASONS FOR REQUDC WZAS IN CONNECTION WITH LECHOCO'S TRIAL.

2. IT WAS RECALLED TO SALIENTES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED DURING THE NEGOTIATION OF THE DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION. CONGRESS SUBSEQUENTLY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED, AND THE DOCUMENTS WERE, THEREFORE, ALREADY EFFECTIVELY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. SALIENTES WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT IN EMBASSY'S AND DEPARTMENT'S JUDGEMENT THE UNITED STATES FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT FORECLOSED ANY REFUSAL TO SUPPLY THE DOCUMENTS ON THE PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. SALIENTES WAS VERY DISTURBED BY THE INFORMATION THAT THE REQUEST ORIGINATED WITH LECHOCO. HE SAID THAT LECHOCO WAS A MAN WHO HAD FORCIBLY DETAINED HIS COUNTRY'S AMBASSADOR,

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HAD WOULNDED AN OFFICER IN HIS COUNTRY'S EMBASSY AND, THEREFORE,

HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO
BE HELPFUL. SALIENTES SAID FURTHER THAT IF OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE
GOVERNMENT APPROVAL WAS BEING SOUGHT HE WOULD QUOTE HAVE
TO TAKE THE MATTER TO A HIGHER LEVEL. UNQUOTE WHEN IT WAS
NOTED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE DOCUMENTS WERE ALREADY EFFECTIVELY
IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, SALIENTES SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS MR.
LECHOCO SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
INDICATING THAT IF THE RELEASE COULD BE HANDLED IN SUCH A
MANNER THAT A QUESTION OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL DID
NOT ARISE IT WOULD BE BEST ON ALL COUNTS.

SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
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